

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus that provide for determining a multilayer switching path are disclosed. In one embodiment of the invention, a Layer 3 path and a Layer 2 path between a source device and destination device are first determined in order to identify the relevant switch engines that perform the multilayer switching. Determining whether the switch engines satisfy a set of criteria identifies the relevant switch engines.

50325-0111 (Seq. No. 1755)